The Dam Safety Organizations (DSO) of CWC has prepared a number of guidelines and dam safety related literature and circulated to the State Government and State DSOs to guide them in the safety inspections of existing dams and remedial actions. The DSO was called upon to assist in many projects in which distress was/has been noticed for identifying the causes and to suggest appropriate remedial measures.

(c) The Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources constituted the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) to oversee dam safety activities in various States and suggest improvements to bring dam safety practices in the line with the latest state-of-art technologies, consistent with Indian conditions.

As per the "Dam Safety Procedure" laid down by the committee, all large dams are required to be inspected twice a year during pre-and post-monsoon periods. These inspections are being carried out by the "Dam Safety Organizations" of the respective States/owners of dams.

The States and dam owning organizations have also to review the safety aspects of all the large dams once in 10 years by independent review panels.

(d) Responsibility for maintenance and operation of dams lies with the dam owners. CWC plays only an advisory role for suggesting remedial measures to the problems, if specific request is received from the State Government/organizations in this regard.

Cess on ground water

1620. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 1800 licenced bottled water units in the country pay a mere 30 paise per 1000 litres of water sourced from ground, as cess;

(b) whether in contrast to general industry sector that draws ground water for industrial purpose, the bottled water untis used ground water as its only raw material and sell it at more than 250 times the cost; and

(c) whether Government would consider imposing a higher rate of cess on ground water on bottled water untis, commensurating with their profit margin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, water cess is levied and collected by the State Pollution Control Boards for prevention and control of water pollution. Differential rates of cess are collected depending upon the use of water, the rate being higher where pollution load is expected to be more, which results in higher cost of pollution abatement and varies from 2 paise per 1000 litres for domestic purposes to 30 paise per 1000 litres for industrial purposes.

(c) The Ministry of Water Resources has no proposal for imposing a higher rate of cess on ground water on bottled water units, commensurating with their profit margin.

National Policy on Flood Control

1621. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any National Policy on Flood Control in the country;